

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

news release

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## PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON WILDERNESS PROPOSALS IN ALASKA

The Interior Department announced today that public hearings will be held November 13 in Anchorage to discuss designation of 24,931 acres of Simeonof National Wildlife Refuge and 455 acres of Chamisso National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska as wilderness.

Simeonof was established in 1958 to provide for the preservation and propagation of sea otter and other wildlife. The refuge, located on the Shumagin Islands in the Pacific Ocean just off the Alaska Peninsula, contains extensive beds of kelp, which provide habitat for abundant populations of sea otter and seals. It also is used by a variety of waterfowl, waterbirds and other wildlife, including the rare bald eagle.

The Chamisso Refuge was established in 1912 and is the second most northerly refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Located just below the Arctic Circle in Kotzebue Sound, the islands and islets that comprise this refuge are dedicated as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds.

A map and other information about the Simeonof Wilderness proposal is available from the Refuge Manager, Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Cold Bay, Alaska 99571, or the Associate Supervisor, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, P.O. Box 280, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, P.O. Box 3737, Portland, Oregon 97208.

A map and other information about the Chamisso Wilderness proposal is available from the Associate Supervisor, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, P.O. Box 280, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, P.O. Box 3737, Portland, Oregon 97208.

Oral or written statements may be submitted at the hearing or written comments can be sent to the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in Portland by December 29, when the hearing record will be closed.

Notice of the hearings, to be held in the Cordova Building in Anchorage, was published in the Federal Register on July 29, 1969. The Chamisso hearing begins at 9 a.m.; the Simeonof hearing begins at 1 p.m.

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